Hampton Icehouse
535 Hampton Lane
North of Hampton Mansion
Hampton National Historic Site
Towson
Baltimore County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-E

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HAMPTON ICEHOUSE

Location: 535 Hampton Lane, north of Hampton Mansion, Hampton National Historic Site, Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland.

Present Owner: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Present Use: Vacant

Statement of Significance: This subterranean structure, used to store cut ice, is an important structure for the interpretation of domestic life at Hampton.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which the Icehouse was built was acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely, for whom Hampton Mansion was built, died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and the Ridgely name. On January 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and a house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles, who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. The foundation subsequently transferred it to the National Park Service in 1948 under the condition that the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities would maintain the estate after it was restored by the Park Service.

2. Date of erection: It is traditionally considered that the Icehouse was built during the construction of Hampton Mansion between 1783 and 1790.

3. Architect: Unknown

4. Construction information: There is no known construction information.

5. Alterations and additions: A concrete frame with an iron bar door has been installed at the entrance way steps.

6. Important old views: The Icehouse is located on the 1843 plat of the Hampton estate.

B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: See the historical data for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A).

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.

2. Secondary and published sources: None known

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This rubble stone subterranean structure with its entrance vaults has a brick dome covered by an earth mound.

2. Condition of the fabric: Good

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: From the bottom of the ice well to the top of the dome it measures 33'-7". The spring line of the dome is approximately 15'-6" in diameter. An approximately 35'-0" long entrance way, 4'-5" wide and a maximum of 7'-10" high at the lower end, extends

to the ice well. At the opposite side an 18'-8" open walk way, 3"-7" wide with stone retaining walls, extends to a hatch opening in the dome.

2. Foundations: Rubble stone masonry

3. Wall construction, finish and color. The masonry walls of the ice well narrow at the bottom. The gneiss-schist stone of the well and entrance way is similar to the rubble stone masonry of the mansion.

4. Structural system: The rubble stone masonry walling supports the flat brick dome structure, which is constructed of brick with a header course every fourth course. Semicircular barrel vaults are located at the upper and lower spaces of the entrance way. A segmental vault is located at the mid space.

5. Porches: None

6. Chimneys: None

7. Openings:

   a. Doorways and doors: At the entrance, approximately 30° from horizontal, an iron bar door is set within a concrete frame. A board and batten door exists at the hatch opening.

   b. Windows and shutters: None

8. Roof: The brick dome extends slightly above the original grade, forming a mound and is covered with approximately 8'-0" of earth. The entrance way vaulting is also covered with earth.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The ice well space is circular, approximately 7'-0" in diameter at the bottom.

2. Stairways: A flight of rough marble steps descends from the entrance doorway to the middle vaulted space.

3. Flooring: The floor of the ice well has boards laid over logs let into the walling approximately 5'-9" above the bottom of the well. The floor of the lower vaulted space is earth.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The vault and walls of the entrance way are stuccoed. The interior of the ice well is exposed masonry.

5. Doorways and doors: An interior doorway near the ice well with brick jambs and a wood lintel supports a brick flat arch. It probably was hung with a board and batten door.

6. Special decorative features: None

7. Hardware: Hinge pintles exist at the interior doorway near the ice well.

8. Mechanical equipment: None

D. Site and Surrounding: The entranceway of the Icehouse, located on the north side of the north heart-shaped drive, faces approximately the northwest corner of the west wing of Hampton Mansion.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (University of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data, edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several structures which were previously unrecorded.